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REMARKSRequest for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Present Invention

One of the novel aspects of the present invention is that the configuration of the present invention provides a gap between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and a gap between the sleeve and the liner member or bushing. These gaps make it possible for slight horizontal movements to cancel the force applied from the directions other than the vertical direction. These gaps allow for slight horizontal movements between the seat and the load sensor and provide an accurate vertical measurement of weight.

Claim Status

Claims 2-17 are pending in this case. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, and 14 are allowed. Claims 4, 7-11, 13, and 15-17 have been rejected as being anticipated by Miura.

First, it should be noted that claim 16 is dependent upon allowed claim 5, thus claim 16 should be allowable as well.

Second, the examiner indicated that because of "a gap between both the bolt portion and the sleeve, and a gap between the sleeve and the liner member", that certain of the claims were allowed, namely 2, 3, 5, 6, 12 and 14. It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims 4, 13, and 15 also have this "gap" limitation and therefore should also be allowed. A more detailed discussion follows.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 based on Miura

Claims 4, 7-11, 13, and 15-17 have been rejected as being anticipated by Miura et al.

1. Claim 16

As noted above claim 16 should not be in the rejection.

2. Claims 4, 13, and 15

Claim 4 recites a limitation: "there is a gap formed between the bolt portion and the sleeve" (see the last line of claim 4). This limitation is not disclosed anywhere in Miura. Therefore, Claim 4 is not anticipated by Miura.

Claims 13 and 15 are dependent claims of Claim 4, thus it is submitted that claims 13 and 15 are also allowable.

3. Claims 7-11 and 17

Claims 7 and 8 have a limitation of a plurality of screw holes provided in the flange portion. An explicit part of Claim 7 and 8 recites: "a flange portion which is provided with a plurality of screw holes for fastening by bolts and is attached to one of said floor side seat fixing member and said seat side fixing member while being in surface contact therewith". Seeing from Fig. 7A and 7C, a plurality of screw holes are provided on the flange portion 20. The plural screw holes are important to the invention, as stated in the specification "it is possible to improve an attaching strength by increasing the number of the fixing bolt" (lines 22-23, page 22).

The applicants noticed that, in the outstanding office action, the examiner did not discuss and give the basis of the rejection on claims 7-8, and their dependent claims 9-10. The applicants believe that the reason is the feature in claims 7-8 reciting an element of "a plurality of screw holes provided in said flange portion" distinguishes these claims from Miura.

Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the flange portion with a plurality of screw holes in the claims 7 and 8 is not disclosed in Miura. Without this feature, Miura can not anticipate claim 7 and 8. Accordingly, claims 9 and 10 are dependent claims of claim 8; claim 11 is depend on claim 9; claim 17 is based on claim 10. They are not anticipated by Miura either.

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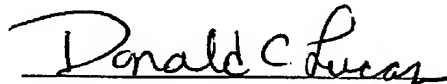
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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